

Missouri River

RECOVERY PROGRAM

Greetings Missouri River Recovery Program team!

I'm excited to introduce the first installment of this e-mail bulletin. These e-mail bulletins will be sent periodically, usually once per month, with quick updates on MRRP projects, stakeholder activities and legislation.

The bulletins should only take you about five minutes to read, but they'll help keep our whole team up to speed on the latest MRRP news, helping us achieve our goal of One Team, One River, One Mission.

Sincerely,

Mike George

Construction Update

The Kansas City District's Shallow Water Habitat construction projects in Missouri are currently on hold pending resolution with the State of Missouri, Missouri Clean Water Commission and state and federal agencies.

The State of Missouri Governor's Office conducted a multi-agency meeting on Jan. 11, 2008, regarding the Clean Water Commission's concerns. Kansas City District is currently reviewing the latest response from the Clean Water Commission on the position of the Corps, Environmental Protection Agency and Fish and Wildlife Service.

MRRIC Charter Complete

Consensus agreement was reached on Jan. 31, 2008, by the MRRIC Planning Group, completing the recommended charter for MRRIC. The Planning Group submitted the recommended charter to the Secretary of the Army for review and approval in early February.

MRRP Team Training a Success

On Feb. 13 - 14, 2008, several MRRP team members from the Omaha and Kansas City districts participated in a two-day training workshop focused on spokesperson training, public participation, consequence communication and conflict management.

Participants thought the training was very beneficial and appreciated the opportunity to work together as a team. Similar trainings will be planned for later this year.

UPDATE



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MoRAST Meeting

The Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST) met on Feb. 25, 2008, in Nebraska City, Nebraska. MoRAST consists of representatives from the governors of Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas.

Meeting topics included updates on the status of establishing the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC); a briefing on implementation guidelines for the Water Resources Development Act (WDRA) passed in November 2007; and a discussion of a potential Section 216 study for the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System. Section 216 is the part of the Flood Control Act of 1970 that allows for reviews of Corps projects that have been affected by changes in physical, economic or environmental conditions.

2008 Missouri River Natural Resources Conference and BiOp Forum

Over 300 Missouri River stakeholders, restoration practitioners and scientists gathered in Nebraska City, Nebraska, on February 26-28 to exchange information during the 2008 Science Conference "From a Healthy Ecosystem to a Healthy Economy: A River in Transition." A plenary session was led by Dr. Edwin Theriot, Director of Environmental Programs for the Corps, and featured ecological economists Dr. Steven Stuart, Bruce Aylward and Dr. Robert Davis, and Tony Willardson, Deputy Director of the Western States Water Council.

The conference included 70 professional presentations and over 45 poster illustrations of scientific investigations ranging from recreational uses of the lower Missouri River to drift dynamics of pallid sturgeons.

MRRP Team Member Recognized

On Jan. 29, 2008, Mark Drobish (Omaha District) received the Outstanding Collaborator of the Year Award from the Missouri Department of Conservation, Research Science Division.

On Feb. 20, 2008, Mark received the Distinguished Service Award from the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. This award is from fisheries professionals from across North and South Dakota as a lifetime achievement award. Well done, Mark!



Mark Drobish received the Outstanding Collaborator of the Year Award with his wife, Brenda.

